ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION & ENQUIRY

Concerning MATTERS

Eccleſiaſtical:

EXHIBITED

To the Miniſters, Church-Wardens, and Side-men of every Pariſh within the

DIOCESE of Saint *DAVID*,

In the TRIENNIAL VISITATION of the

Right Reverend Father in God

WILLIAM,

By Divine Providence

Lord Biſhop of Saint *DAVID*.

For the Year 1671.

LONDON, Printed for *N. Brooke*, 1671.

The Tenor of the Oath to be administred to the Church-Wardens and Side-men of every Parish.

YOu, and every of you, according to your several Duties by Law required, shall make diligent Inquisition, and true Presentment according to the Contents of the several Articles in this Book contained, delivered unto you, without partiality or affection towards man, and with all Reverence and Worship given to God, in whose Holy Name you swear: So help you God, by our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLES

OF VISITATION and INQUIRY,

WITHIN THE

DIOECESE of Saint *DAVID.*

TITUL. I.

Concerning Churches *and* Chappels, *with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.*

I. ARE your Parish Church, Chappel or Chappels, kept in good and sufficient repair? Are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile or Slate? The Windows well Glazed, the Floors well paved, the Seats well fastned, and conveniently placed, and all things so decently ordered, as becometh the House of God?

II. Hath the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof, been pulled down, or any of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto, been imbezelled, Sold or made away? In whose hands or custody doth the same, or any part thereof remain? Declare what you know, or have heard herein.

III. Is there a Font of Stone, with a good Cover thereunto, ſtanding in a convenient place towards the lower part of your Church or Chappel, for the Adminiſtration of Baptiſm? And is there in your Chancel, a decent Communion-Table, for the Adminiſtration of the Lords Supper, placed at the Eaſt end of your Chancel, with the Ends North and South, with Rails before it, with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen Cloth, and another Covering of white and pure Linnen to ſpread there upon? And have you a fair Communion-Cup, or Chalice of Silver, with a Cover of Silver, and one or more Flagons of Silver, or Pewter, thereunto belonging?

IV. Have you in your ſaid Church or Chappel a convenient Seat, or Pew, for your Miniſter to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit, with a comely Cloth or Cuſhion for the ſame? A Bible of the laſt Tranſlation, in a large Volume, and the Book of Common-Prayer, both well and ſubſtantially bound? Have you likewiſe the Book of Homilies? all theſe in Welſh and in Engliſh, where the Welſh is uſed, ſet forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Conſtitutions Eccleſiaſtical? And a printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

V. Have you a comely large Surplice for the Miniſter to wear at all times of his Publick Miniſtration in the Church, provided, and to be duly waſhed at the Charge of the Pariſh?

VI Have you a Regiſter-Book of Parchment, wherein to Regiſter the Names and Sirnames of all ſuch perſons as are Married, Chriſtned, or Buried within your Pariſh? Together with the Names and Sirnames of both the Parents of the Children ſo Chriſtned, expreſſing the day, moneth and year of all ſuch Chriſtnings, Marriages, and Burials? And is the tranſcript thereof yearly, within one moneth next after the 25. of *March*, brought into the Biſhops Regiſtry?

VII. Have you likewiſe another Book of Paper, wherein to record the Names and Licenſes of all ſuch Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? As alſo a third Book, wherein to write down the Church-wardens Accompts: together with a ſtrong Cheſt with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforeſaid Books, and all other the aforementioned Furniture in ſafe Cuſtody? And laſtly, have you a Bier, with a black Hearſ-cloth, for the Burial of the Dead?

VIII. Have you a Box with a Lock and Key, fit to receive and keep the Alms of charitable men given to your poor, according to the 84. Canon?

TIT. II

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tithes, belonging to the Church.

I. IS your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Rails, or Pales, and decently kept from the annoyance of Swine, Horses, and other Cattel? Hath any person encroached upon the same? or made any door into it, out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? Have any Trees there growing been cut down? how long since? by whom? and to whose use and benefit?

II. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar or Curate, (with all the Out-houses thereunto belonging) kept in good and sufficient repair? Or, have any of the said Houses, or Out houses been defaced or pulled down without License from the Ordinary? and by whom? Hath any person encroached upon any Garden, Yard or Close, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage-house? or cut down any Trees growing thereon? or changed or removed the ancient Marks and Bounds of the same?

III. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a Note of such Pensions, Rate-tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom, as you know, or have heard?

IV. Have any of the ancient Glebe lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, been taken away, or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and license from the Ordinary? Have any Inclosures been made in your Parish, to the detriment of the Church, by the decay of Tillage, and converting Arable-land into Pasture? by whom hath the same been made? and how many years since? and how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage damnified thereby in the yearly value thereof, as you know, believe, or have heard?

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

I. IS your Minister a Priest, Episcopally Ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of *England*? If so, let him produce his Orders?

II. Is he defamed, or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniacal compact?

III. Hath

III. Hath he been legally Instituted and Inducted into his Benefice? and did he within two Months after his Induction, publickly in the Church, upon some Sunday or Holy-day, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of *England*, established by Authority, without omitting any one, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto?

IV. Hath he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice, Prebend, or Dignity? Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice amongst you? How many weeks in any one year hath he been absent from it without urgent necessity?

V. Hath your Minister a Curate to assist him? Is the said Curate in Holy Orders? an able and discreet person, and conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of *England*? Is he allowed and licensed by the Bishop himself, or else by whom is he licensed to serve in your Church or Chappel? and doth he serve in any other Church beside? and what yearly Stipend doth your Minister allow him?

VI. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Childbirth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and pronouncing Gods Commination against impenitent Sinners, use the form and words prescribed in the Book of Common-prayer, without any addition, omission, or alteration of the same? And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the said Book?

VII. Doth your Minister at the Reading or Celebrating any Divine Office in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice, together with such other Scholastical Habit as is suitable to his Degree?

VIII. Doth he observe the Holy-days and Fasting-days, as also the Ember Weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation-week, as in the Common Prayer Book, or by the Ecclesiastical Canons is appointed? giving notice to the Parishioners of every of the same in the Church, in the time of Divine Service, upon the Sunday next before?

IX. Hath your Minister been licensed to Preach by the Bishop, or either of the two Universities? If so, doth he then Constantly (unless in case of sickness, necessary absence, or other reasonable impediment) himself Preach in your Church or Chappel one Sermon every Sunday? or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed, be hindered by sickness, or otherwise, as aforesaid, doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a Licensed Preacher? or one of the Homilies set forth by Authority, to be there read by a Priest or Deacon lawfully Ordained?

X. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the youth of your Parish in the Church Catechism? and doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be confirmed by the Bishop? and doth he endeavor to reclaim

claim all *Popish Recusants*, and other Sectaries, (if any such be inhabiting within you Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of *England*, and to their bounden duty in obeying the Laws, and submitting to the Government thereof?

XI. Doth he neglect to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of death? Is their any Child past Infancy, or any other Persons of more years, through your Ministers default, yet remaining unbaptized in your parish? Doth he Baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children?

XII. Doth he in his Sermons Preach sound Doctrine, tending to the edification of the people in the knowledge and Faith of Jesus Christ, and obedience to Gods Holy Commandments? or hath he at any time (as you know, or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious, or Schismatical Doctrine, thereby to seduce the people into parties and factions, to the disturbance of the publick peace, and unity either of Church or State?

XIII. Hath he presumed to Marry any Persons in private houses? or such as being under age, have not the consent of their Parents, or without the Banes first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church? or without License, or dispensation first granted and produced to him for the same? or at any other hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning?

XIV. Doth any Person Preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance and license from the Bishop for so doing? Doth he before his Lecture read Divine Service, according to the Book of Common-prayer? and is he in all respects conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of *England*?

XV. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prochecyings or Exercises, not appointed by Authority? or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay-person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private Houses within your Parish for people of Several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided?

XVI. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, a man of sober, unblameable, and exemplary Life? Doth he familiarly converse with ungodly, vicious, and excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns or Ale-houses? a common Gamester? a prophane or obscene Jester? a Swearer, Railer, Scoffer, or Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbours at Variance one with another? or encourage them to Suits and Contention? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person, either within your Parish, or without? Doth he wear his Hair of an immoderate or uncomely length? Is his Apparel grave and decent,

cent, both for fashion and colour, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his Carriage and Conversation, in any kind whatsoever, Disorderly or Scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

XVII. Hath your Parson, Curate, Vicar, Lecturer, or School-master subscribed the Declaration against the Covenant, as is by Law prescribed? if so, let him produce it.

XVIII. Hath your Parson, Vicar, or Curate at any time refused to read Briefs enjoyned by His Majesty, or Citations or Monitions, or denounce Excommunications enjoyned by the Ordinary? or hath he buried with Christian Burial any persons that for contempt to Holy Church, or Ecclesiastical Laws, have been denounced Excommunicated, and not restored to the Church again?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. IS there in your parish any person a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick? any Papist, Presbyterian, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker, or other Sectary, that refuse to come unto the publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Services of the Church, or that make profession of any other Religion than what is established in the Church of *England*? and if there be any such, what are their Names?

II. Is there any person in your Parish, that lieth under a common fame, or vehement suspition of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be Raylers, unclean or filthy talkers, or sowers of sedition faction, and discord amongst their Neighbors? If so, who are they?

III. Do any of your Parish upon the Sundays or Holy-days, follow their bodily and ordinary labour? or permit their Servants so to do? are any shops kept open, or wares sold? or do any Vintners, Inn-keepers, or other Victualers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those days? Declare the persons so offending, with the times and place.

IV. Doth every person inhabiting or sojourning within your Parish, duly resort unto your Church, Chappel or Chappels, upon every Sunday and Holy-day appointed for Divine Service? Do they then and there abide quietly, with reverence, order and decency, during all the whole time of Common-prayer, Preaching, or other Service of God there used? and are there any among you that come only to Preaching, and not to the Common-Prayers of the Church? who are they?

V. Doth

V. Doth every person reverently uncover his head, and so continue all the time of Divine Service and Sermon in the Church? Do they all reverently kneel at the Prayers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel are read, making due reverence when the Name of our Lord Jesus is mentioned? Declare who do not, if any such.

VI. Are there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be baptized publickly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger, in which case, the child may be baptized at home by a lawful Minister, after the form and rites appointed in the Liturgy? Or do they send them to be baptized in any other Parishes, or after other form than is appointed? Or do they keep them unbaptized any longer time than the Church alloweth? And are there any Infants or more aged persons in your Parish as yet unbaptized? If so, declare who.

VII. Doth every housholder in your Parish cause their Children and servants to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundays and Holy-days, as in the Book of Common-prayer is appointed: that when they are well instructed in the same, they may be confirmed by the Bishop?

VIII. Is there any person in your Parish, who being 16. years of age, and well instructed in Religion, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times in the year, of which *Easter* is always to be one? Doth any in your Parish refuse to receive the same kneeling? or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? Or are there any strangers not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it? If there be any such, express who they are.

IX. Have you any among you that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so excommunicated? And do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved? If so, declare who.

X. Are there any living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully married, contrary to the Laws of God? Or any that being lawfully divorced, have married again? Or any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together? If so, express their several names.

XI. Are there any married Women in your Parish, who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom? If there be any such, present them.

XII. Are there any belonging your Parish, who refuse to pay their

duty for *Easter* Offerings to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute and pay the rate assessed upon them, for the repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such books, furniture and ornaments, as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices there? If so, who are they?

XIII. Do any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of *England*? And are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? Or any goods administred, without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in your Parish or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

XIV. Do you know, or have you heard of any Patron, or other person in your Parish, having the presentation or gift of any Ecclesiastical Benefice, who hath made gain thereof by presenting a Clerk or Minister to it upon any bargain, either for money or pension, or lease, reserve of Tithes or Glebe, or any part thereof, or upon other Simoniacal compact whatsoever?

XV. Is there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel without leave from the Ordinary?

XVI. If any brawl or fight one with another in your Church or Churchyard, present them.

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

I. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappelry a Parish-Clerk, aged 21. years at least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services in the Church? Are his wages and customary duties duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

II. Doth he or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to the doors of your Church, that they be locked and opened at due time? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from dust, cobwebs, and other annoyance? Doth he toll or ring the Bells at the due accustomed hours before the beginning of Divine Service, Morning and Evening, that the people may be warned to come unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed, that the neighbours may thereby

thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-masters, Physicians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.

I. IS there any Hospital, Alms-house, or Free-School founded in your Parish? Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? and what is the yearly Revenue, or Stipend, belonging to the Governours or Masters of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be? and are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the Intention of the Founder, and of such Grants and Ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. Doth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish who is not allowed and licensed thereunto by the Bishop, or his Chancellor? Present such, if there be any in your Parish or Chappelry. Doth your School-master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion, set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holidays orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. Doth any man in your Parish practice Physick or Chirurgery, or any woman take upon her to exercise the office of a Midwife, without approbation and license from the Ordinary? If so, name them.

TIT. VII.

Concerning Church-Wardens and Side-men.

I. ARe the Church-Wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joint consent of your Minister and Parishoners, or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

II. Have the former and last Church-Wardens given up their due Accompts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-Wardens the monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. Hath there been diligent care to see who of your Parishioners be absent from the Divine Service and Sermon in your Church or Chappel, upon Sundays and Holi-days, and to find who have absented themselves without a sufficient cause? Hath there been by Warrant or Warrants from some of the Justices of the Peace, levied of such Offendors, by way of Distress upon their goods, the sum of 12. pence for every day of their absence, according to the Act of Parliament in that case provided: And hath the

the same been distributed among the Poor of your Parish according to the Law?

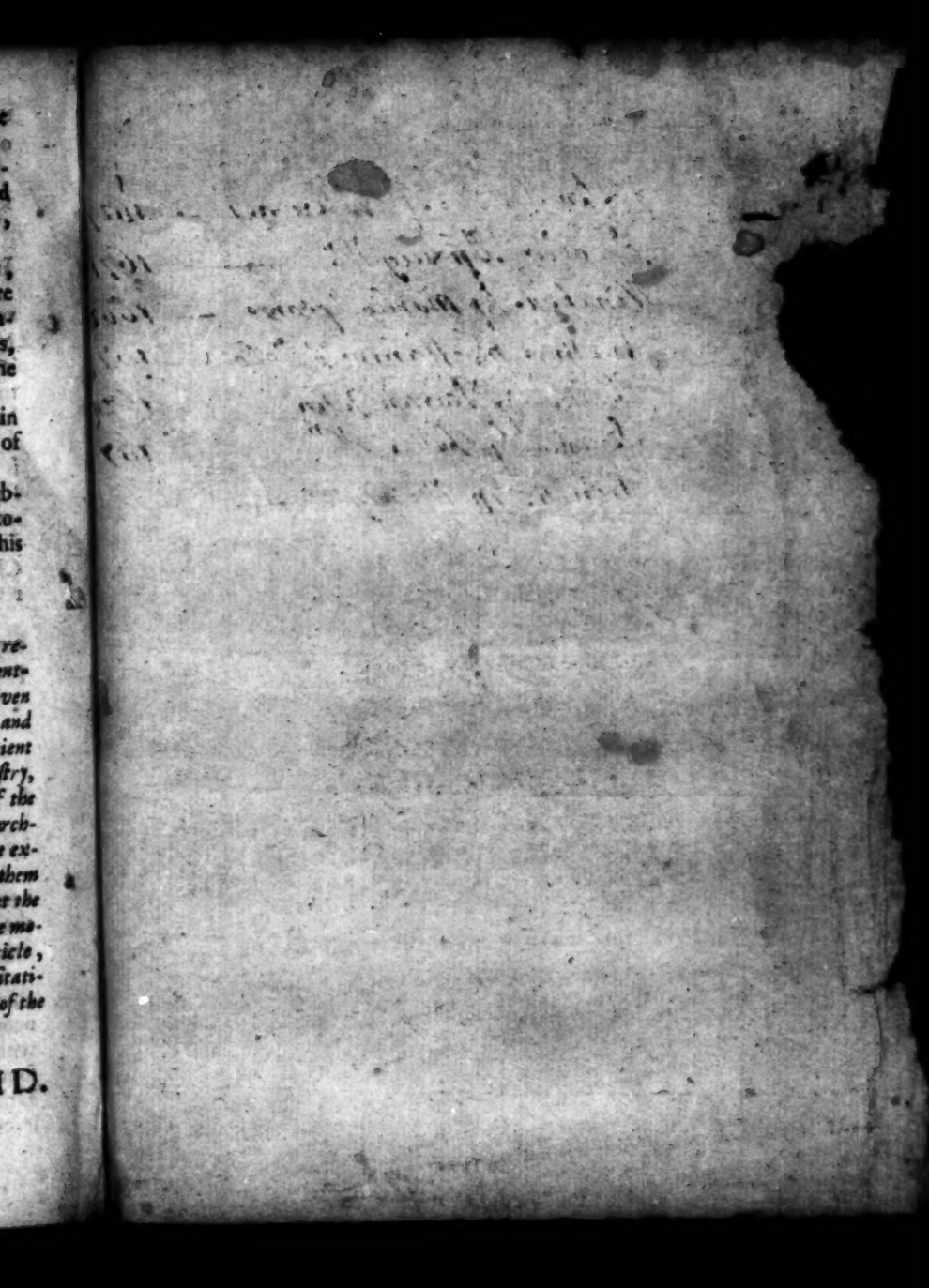
IV. Have they been noted that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or depart before it be ended? Have any been suffered to stand idle, or talk together in the Church-Porch, or walk in the Church-yard, during the time of Prayers, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices?

V. Hath no misbehaviour or disorder been suffered to be done by men, women, servants, or Children, in your Church or Chappel? Hath care been taken, that none of them sit, lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion Table? Have no Minstrels, no Morris dancers, no Dogs, Hawks, or Hounds, been suffered to be brought or come into your Church, to the disturbance of the Congregation?

VI. Hath there been provided against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?

VII. Have all Strangers that Preach in your Church or Chappel, subscribed their names the same day in a Book provided for that purpose, together with the name of the Bishop that licensed them to Preach in this Diocese? and have none other preached?

THe Church-Wardens and Side men are required to advise with their respective Rectors, Vicars or Curates, concerning their several Presentments, that so they may be regular and direct in answer to the Articles given them in charge; to which end I require that the several Rectors, Vicars and Curates of every Parish, the Sunday sevennight, or some other convenient time before the day prefixed for this Visitation, do call to them, in the Vestry, Church, or Church-house, the respective Church-Wardens and Side-men of the Parish, whereof he is Minister or Curate, and there read to the said Church-Wardens and Side-men, the Articles in this Book contained, and that he exhort them to the performance of their duties in this behalf, laying open to them the danger of Perjury, and also (after inquisition made by them) that the Minister or Curate (at a second meeting) assist them in the regular and more methodical drawing up of their said presentments, distinctly to every Article, and that the said Minister certifie in Court upon the day of the said Visitation, the performance of this injunction; or in case it be so, the contempt of the Church-wardens and Side-men under his hand.

WILLIAM *Saint* DAVID.

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